notional. Similarly, catering services, as such, make a profit. However, in case haulage cost of pantry car of Mail/Express trains, is taken into accourit, the services show a loss. Pantry cars are attached as essential passenger amenity so as to provide food to passengers on running trains for which there is no other alternative. Hence, haulage cost of pantry cars can also be treated as notional.

(b) In case haulage cost of SLRs as well as pantry cars are included in costing of services, in that eventuality amount of losses suffered by the Railways for the years 2002-2003 under Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge are as under:—

In case of	Amount of loss (Rs. in crore)
Parcel, Luggage and Postal services	782.18
Catering service	410.81

(c) and (d) With a view to provide value added service to the rail customers, the scheme for leasing of parcel space in the brakevans has been introduced by the Indian Railways. Under the scheme, parcel space in the brakevans of the passenger carrying trains is leased out to the private parties by inviting bids through open tenders. On the same line the scheme for leasing of Parcel Vans on round trip basis has also been introduced. The scheme for leasing of parcel space in the Assistant Guard's Cabin of front Brakevans of passenger trains has also been introduced to facilitate transportation of small packets by Courier companies.

Railway land to a contractor

2171. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Club (Mumbai Division) Western Railway has given a piece of railway land worth Rs. 7.6 Crores free of cost to a contractor for use, violating the rules in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when the said contractor has been utilizing this land and the basis thereof;

(d) the action taken against the officers involved therein: and

(e) in what manner the said land is being utilized at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is true that a contract with private individual for 20 years was entered into by the Managing Committee of Railway Club, but it is not true that it's usage was free of charge.

(b) The contract permitted the contractor the discretion to decide the rates to be charged by him for the private function from non-members, whereas Club was to get some rent alongwith facility of subsidized food items for Club members and officers at Rest House. Since the contract was overwhelmingly in favour of the contractor, an investigation was carried out in the matter.

(c) Contract agreement with the contractor was executed on 18.5.02 and the premises was being used by him since then.

(d) Two officers were issued major penalty charge sheet and one Senior Administrative Grade officer was issued minor penalty charge sheet for the lapses in the matter.

(e) Possession of the premises was taken over by Estate Officer on 12.3.2005 and the concerned bungalow is kept sealed at present.

Condition of Minto Road Railway Colony

†2172. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the meeting of the M.Ps Consultative Committee of his Ministry held on 4th November, 2004 the M.Ps were informed that railway quarters are being repaired regularly;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Delhi based Minto Road Railway Residential Colony is in dilapidated condition;

(c) if so, how many times officers visited the said colony; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions for repairing the said colony properly?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.